



Fall 2018 Root River Weir Summary

The Root River Steelhead Facility (RRSF) was in operation for thirteen processing dates during the Fall 2018 migration. We captured and processed 3,712 fish between September 24th and November 8th. Our egg-take and biological sampling goals were met, and coho health inspections were conducted. The Fall 2018 Root River effort is summarized below.

	Captured	Spawned	Eggs taken	Passed Upstream
Chinook	1,125	0	0	326
Coho	2,487	510	555,000	2,397
Rainbow	20	0	0	20
Brown	80	0	0	79
Totals	3,712	510	555,000	2,822

Water levels in the Root River were high for much of September and early October, meaning some fish had already moved upstream by the time the facility was running for the season. However, high but decreasing flows allowed for an early run of coho, followed by a slow but steady run of Chinook, and a second run of coho that peaked at the end of October.

Throughout the fall season, Chinooks were sampled as part of an ongoing multi-agency, lakewide study on natural reproduction. Stocked Chinooks were implanted with small coded wire tags prior to release, and tags were recovered from 799 fish at RRSF. Analysis of the tags will provide fish managers with more information on movement patterns of Chinooks in the lake, growth rates, and the occurrence of “straying”, when a mature fish returns to a stream other than the one where it was originally stocked.

The 10th Annual Open House was held at RRSF on Saturday, October 13th, and over 800 people attended the event. DNR staff gave tours of the facility. Volunteers from Salmon Unlimited of Wisconsin served as greeters to welcome visitors, provided food, displayed a Lake Michigan fishing boat, and displayed their net pens used for raising salmon. Additional volunteers from Trout Unlimited and the Kenosha Sportfishing and Conservation Association demonstrated fly tying and casting. Thank you to all those who participated and helped make the day a success!

Wisconsin DNR would like to acknowledge the support of Salmon Unlimited in keeping the Root River Steelhead Facility operational, and a special thank you goes out to the volunteers who opened and closed the underwater viewing window at the facility during the season.

We will resume operations at the weir in the spring. For the latest Lake Michigan sport fishing information, please visit our website at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan>

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